

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of making a reinforced hydraulic cement cementitious board having first and second faces, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting composite fabric reinforcement comprising an open mesh first component of high modulus of elasticity fiber strands continuously covered with alkali resistant polymeric material and a nonwoven web second component;

treating at least one of said first and second components to enhance at least one of wetting and adhesion characteristics thereof with respect to hydraulic cement when said reinforcement is embedded therein; and

embedding said reinforcement in hydraulic cement cementitious matrix material.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said polymeric material is thermoplastic material.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said second component is fabricated from thermoplastic material.

4. The method of claims 2 or 3 wherein said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of olefins, polyolefins, olefin copolymers, polypropylene, polyethylene, ethylene propylene rubber, thermoplastic polyolefin rubber, polyvinylidene chloride, polyvinyl chloride compounds, ethylene-propylene diene monomer, copolymers of polybutylene and propylene, and copolymers of styrene and butadiene.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said mesh has a strand count of about 2 to about 15 strands per inch in each direction.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said strands comprise bundled glass fibers having a linear density of about 33 to about 300 tex.

7. A method of making cementitious boards comprising the steps of:

providing an open mesh first component of high modulus of elasticity fiber strands covered with alkali-resistant polymeric material;

providing a nonwoven web second component;

treating at least one of said first and second components to enhance at least one of wetting and adhesion characteristics thereof with respect to hydraulic cement cementitious matrix material;

uniting said first and second components; and

embedding the united first and second components in hydraulic cement cementitious matrix material.

8. A method of making cementitious boards comprising the steps of:

providing an open mesh first component of high modulus of elasticity fiber strands covered with alkali-resistant polymeric material;

providing a nonwoven web second component;

uniting said first and second components;

treating at least one of said first and second components to enhance at least one of wetting and adhesion characteristics thereof with respect to hydraulic cement cementitious matrix material; and

embedding the united first and second components in hydraulic cementitious matrix material.